DON FEDER

Gay adoptions flout simple common sense

Regarding his colleagues' support for gay adoption/custody, psychologist Joe Nicolosi observes: "One of the beautiful things about a democracy is that social scientists can ruin a generation, and then come back 20 years later with our objective measures to validate what common sense should have told us."

Social science is far from the only transgressor here. Last week, a juvenile court commissioner in Whatcom County, Wash., ordered a 3-year-old boy placed with two male homosexuals as the first step toward adoption.

The child is the center of a raging controversy. His mother, who had placed him for adoption, changed her mind when she learned of the arrangement. "I don't want my child raised like that," says Megan Lucas. But that is precisely the way her son will be raised, if Washington state has its way.

In this matter, courts are anything but consistent. Earlier this month, a Virginia judge took a child away from his mother and her lesbian lover, awarding custody to the maternal grandmother.

In a few states, when homosexuality is an aspect of divorce, courts invariably grant custody to the heterosexual parent. In others, it's a factor but by no

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means decisive. New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Minnesota and California allow gay adoption, usually by the partner of a biological parent.

Psychologists have added their voices to the trendy chorus. The American Psychological Association complains that courts "often have assumed that . . . children are likely to be emotionally harmed, subject to molestation, impaired in gender role development or themselves homosexual. None of these assumptions is supported by extant research data."

But there was a time when psychologists insisted there were no long-term effects of divorce on children. Then researchers like Judith Wallerstein discovered that the children of divorce are far more likely to be withdrawn and afraid of commitment.

Twenty years ago, Jay Belsky, a Pennsylvania State University psychologist, was running around telling anyone who would listen that there was nothing wrong with putting infants in day care. Today, he's one of the most outspoken critics of collective child-rearing, contending that children placed in day care at an early age form weak parental attachments and have emotional problems later in life.

When it comes to child welfare, the claims of social scientists must be viewed with extreme skepticism.

Most researchers, who are biased in favor of homosexuals, ignore their own data. Dr. Paul Cameron, Ph.D. of the Family Research Institute has surveyed the admittedly scant findings of his profession on children raised in households with at least one homosexual. In these studies, between 8 and 33 percent of adult respondents said they considered themselves homosexual or bi-sexual, far above the national norm of 2 percent of the adult male population.

How surprising is this? In almost every area, parental behavior has a profound, at times predominant, impact on children. The children of smokers frequently become smokers. Kids from abusive homes often become abusers. Children from broken homes are more likely to divorce. Only in the case of homosexuality are we asked to believe that what happens in the home is irrelevant to emotional development.

Jaki Edwards of Milpitas, Calif.a, who runs a support and recovery program for those coming out of the homosexual lifestyle and their families, has knowledge beyond questionnaires and graphs. From age 10 to 16, she and a younger brother lived with their lesbian mother and a succession of her companions.

"I realize that homosexuals feel they can give a child love and support that even many straight families can't provide," Edwards admits. "But I've been there. I know the finger-pointing and the shame one carries.

"For years, you struggle with the thought that you might be a homosexual. People say 'like mother, like daughter.' Most of us become promiscuous to prove we're straight."

The absence of role models presents it own problems. "How will a man raised by two men know how to relate to a woman? A woman brought up like this doesn't know how to emotionally connect with men. I had to struggle for years to believe a man could really love me."

How many lives will be broken, how many little experiments will suffer in silence (unobserved by omniscient researchers) before courts and social scientists learn you can't fool nature? Children were meant to be nurtured by a man and woman together. Absent that, at least they shouldn't placed in a situation where a distorted version of human sexuality is presented as the norm, to satisfy the latest bizarre demands for equality.

Feder is a columnist for the Boston Herald.

Dedication ceremon

Gazette Telegraph

The Colorado Springs Park and Recreation Department will hold dedication ceremonies in three parks Oct. 7.

Two of the projects to be dedicated were improvements to existing parks, and one will celebrate the creation of a new park.

■ At 10 a.m. in Vermijo Park, 2601 W. Vermijo St., near Old Colorado City, officials will unveil a new playground and restrooms. The restroom building was specifically designed to reflect the Victorian architecture of the neighborhood. The project cost

Jury selection beg sheriff's evidence

Case stems from sexual harassment investigation

Associated Press

BRECKENRIDGE — Jury selection began Monday in the trial of Fremont County Sheriff Bob Cheek, accused of tampering with personnel files in the wake of a sexual harassment investigation.

The trial was moved here from Canon City because defense attorneys claimed pretrial publicity made it impossible for Cheek to receive a fair trial there. Summit County District Judge Terry Ruckriegle will preside over the trial.

Cheek was charged in April with four felony counts of evidence tampering and four misdemeanor counts of abuse of public records. He is accused of placing phony, back-dated letters of discipline in the personnel files of four male deputies.

Prosecutors claim Cheek wrote the letters after a female deputy said in

Wolf advocates, ra

Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Poster board signs were the common denominators Monday as environmentalists and ranchers vied for media attention prior to a public hearing on wolves in Yellowstone National Park.

"One, two, three, four, we want wolves in '94," chanted the pro-wolf crowd outside Laramie County Community College where a hearing on a wolf

BULLETIN BOARD

Street to be closed: Main Street in between U.S. Highway 85/87 and Security vard will be closed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. t railroad crossing replacement. Eastbound will detour south on U.S. 85/87, east on F Boulevard, north on Security Boulevard a to Main Street. Delays are expected. Alter routes are advised. Call 520-6444 for info

Gift donations sought: The Shelter is collecting donations of holiday gifts an for its annual gift and food basket drive. group also is looking for people with vans vide transportation. Call 573-9019 for information.

AARP conference planned: The A Association of Retired Persons' Colorado Conference will be Oct. 15-16 at the Marr Hotel, 5580 Tech Center Drive. Exhibitor welcome. Registration is $100 for comme booths and $50 for nonprofit booths. Call 7908 for information.

American Indians in spotlight: A American Indian rights and religious beli the struggle to grant those freedoms to p mates will be given by Lenny Foster, dire spiritual adviser of the Navajo Nations C tions Project, at 7:30 p.m. today in Room University Center, University of Colorad rado Springs, and at 12:15 p.m. Wednesd the UCCS science auditorium. Call 593-3 information.

Health Expo planned: The HealthQ 1993 Health Expo will be from 9 a.m. to 4 Oct. 16 at the Red Lion Inn, Interstate 25 South Circle Drive. Talks on nutrition, ca and degenerative diseases will be feature tration is needed. The cost is $25. Call 59 for information.

Ski patrol members sought: The C Valley Ski Patrol, a member of the Nation Patrol, is looking for volunteers. Call 593- 528-5468 for information.

Historic site volunteers needed: V House Ranch Historic Site in Garden of th needs volunteers to help with activities du weekends between Thanksgiving and Chri Training will be held in mid-November. Ca 6356 for information.

Youth activities offered: Registrati being taken for preschool classes, Dinosau travaganza and Voyage Under the Sea at V Center for Intergenerational Learning, 25 St. Call 444-7340 for information.

Class offered for singles: A class, Singles Only — Commitment Anxiety," w fered from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday at We ter for Intergenerational Learning, 25 N. Bob Washington will speak. The cost is $5 578-6981 for information.